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‘THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN’ IS AMAZING {page 07}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, July 3, 2012

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Boston broadcast says farewell to fauxworks

2011’s national telecast of Hub’s July Fourth celebration included doctored fireworks images that couldn’t have existed in real life After public outcry, organizers say they will return to original format along the Charles {page 02}

News

Commuters delayed by MBTA glitch

Software problem denies many Purple Line riders access to subway transfers
20,000 affected {page 03}

Pour some sugar on Sleigh Bells

Your favorite noisy duo on the echoes of Def Leppard on their ‘Reign of Terror’ {page 08}

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In the news

$35M

Massachusetts will receive more than $35 million as part of the nation's largest-ever health care fraud settlement yesterday. GlaxoSmithKline will pay the money to the state's Medicaid program to resolve allegations the company engaged in various illegal schemes related to the marketing and pricing of a wide range of drugs. METRO

Editor's note

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, Metro will not print on Wednesday, July 4, or Thursday, July 5. We'll be back Friday with your guide to the weekend. Have a safe and happy holiday!

I-93 signs to offer ETAs on traffic jams

BOSTON. Transportation officials yesterday unveiled a pilot program to give drivers an idea of how long they will be held up in traffic.

Twenty-two signs on I-93 between Canton and the New Hampshire border will give travel time estimates, according to MassDOT.

As traffic slows, road sensors will send updated travel times every minute to the message boards letting drivers know how long it will be to get to their destination.

MassDOT Secretary Rich Davey said it is a service "people have been clamoring for," he said. METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Davey

State schools hiking tuitions

MASSACHUSETTS. Thousands of college students will have to cough up more dough for their education next year, according to a report by the Boston Globe, which says eight of the nine state universities have approved fee hikes averaging about 6 percent.

The schools with the 6 percent average fee hike are: Bridgewater State, Fitchburg State, Framingham State, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Mass. Maritime, Salem State and Worcester State. Massachusetts College of Art and Design increased the most at 7.2 percent. GLOBE

Teen drowns in Quincy

QUINCY. A teen trying to cool off Sunday with some friends drowned near the Quincy Yacht Club.

Lama Thompson, 18, of Quincy, was jumping off of the public landing abut 1 p.m. next to the yacht club when he became distressed and did not surface. Police divers found him and took him to a hospital where he later died. BOSTON.COM

Fourth of July fireworks will get real tomorrow

Boston 4 Productions makes changes after outcry over superimposed images last year ◗ Time, sound also undergo minor 'tweaks' this year

If you end up watching the national broadcast of the Boston fireworks this Fourth of July, you'll notice something different from last year.

It's going to be more real.

A rebellion started after last year's fireworks display, which included the sparkling colors exploding behind prerecorded and superimposed images of the State House and Fenway Park. The images were lacking in accuracy as the direction of the fireworks was incorrect and, in some cases, impossible.

After some outcries, organizers decided to ditch the faux-works display for tomorrow night's show.

"The public spoke. … People didn't care for it," said Steve MacDonald, a spokesman for Boston 4 Productions. "We always try new and different things. We always look at the event and what would enhance the broadcast."

"The core of it is still the same. It's the Boston Pops, the 1812 Overture and fireworks on the Charles River."
STEVE MACDONALD, SPOKESMAN FOR BOSTON 4 PRODUCTIONS

In an interview shortly after last year's enhanced display, the executive producer of the show said the superimposed images were meant to be entertainment, not news, and it was no different than Boston-set television dramas filmed in Hollywood studios.

"We're proud to show scenes from our city," David Mugar told the Boston Globe last year. "We were able to highlight great places in Boston, historical places with direct ties to the Fourth. So we think it was a good thing."

However, some of those viewers who watched the broadcast don't agree.

"I was like 'What's going on? What are they doing?'" said Nicole Alessio of South Boston who said she watched last year's display on television and immediately noticed the superimposed scenes. "It didn't feel real or natural. It didn't feel like the spirit of it. I think it looks so lovely on the Charles."

But for others, the entertainment value was most important.

"I don't see a big difference as long as it looks good," said Siondueh Burnette.

MacDonald said that this year some minor changes will be implemented that may or may not be noticeable to the viewing public.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Program changes on the horizon

Some of the different things you'll see, and some you will not, during the Boston Fourth of July celebration.

- **The concert is starting at 8:20 p.m. this year, 10 minutes earlier than last year,** so that there is more daylight for spectators and viewers to see the Blue Angels military flyover.
- **Organizers are using microwave technology** in their production this year.
- **The position of the sound towers has been "tweaked"** for better listening along the Esplanade.

MBTA. Increases

▶ Wheelchair user and activist Karen Schneiderman, far left, gave her testimony of transit woes at the State House on Monday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Disabled riders protest MBTA fare hike at State House

Roughly 30 wheelchair-bound T riders and activists took to the State House Monday to hold a vigil symbolizing what organizers called "the death of their freedom" caused by the new MBTA fare structure. The increased doubled the cost for people to use The Ride, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled, from $2 to $4. The protesters read testimonies from riders struggling on a fixed income and demanded to speak to Gov. Deval Patrick to discuss alternatives to the fare increase. The group included some of the same protesters who chained themselves together in front of the State House in May. METRO

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ Monthly passes were denied due to a glitch connected to the fare hike.

Commuter pass glitch causes delays

Twitter was abuzz Monday with commuters who were frustrated with something other than fare increases and service cuts.

Thousands of commuter rail passengers were held up at T fare gates when their monthly passes denied them access when transferring to the subway system.

MBTA Chief Technology Officer Gary Foster said there was a software hiccup with some monthly commuter rail zone passes that were purchased through the Corporate Pass Program.

As a result, those customers were presented with a screen telling them to "See Agent," and long lines formed at customer service at many stations.

T personnel spent a large portion of the day getting to the bottom of the problem, Foster said, and by the afternoon were able to rebuild and redistribute the software to fare gates.

"We know that there were about 40,000 of these tickets distributed through the Corporate Pass Program. About 40 to 60 percent will transfer to the subway — but it's also a light ridership week due to the holiday, so maybe 20,000 [riders] were affected depending on how many were opting for a free transfer," he said.

Foster said those customers would not need to be issued new passes, and that commuters returning home at rush hour yesterday should not have had any problems getting through the gates.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Angry T tweeters

People were eager to bash the pass glitch:

1. Woman at T Cust Svc window: "Bad batch of July passes indeed went out. Should work in 2 days. Till then, duck or piggyback. #mbta" @Kmacjp

2. "#mbta fare increase starts today. Day 1, turnstiles won't re"ad passes & incompetent people trying to direct folks. Seems about right." @nashsmom

3. #MBTA monthly passes aren't working. They know & will let you in. Don't wait in line for 35 min to find out like I did. @RobbieSamuels

News in brief

Cops scream for ice cream

BOSTON. The Boston Police Department recently relaunched its community outreach initiative dubbed Operation Hoodsie Cup. The police-run ice cream truck travels the city's neighborhoods and is parked at community events.

Officers hand out ice cream with the hope that the one-on-one contact will help build better relationships with community members.

This is the third year for the program. METRO

Overheated dogs prompt warning

BROCKTON. An animal care organization is warning pet owners to help keep their furry friends cool in the heat after a dog was found dead in Brockton and three others suffering outdoors.

A neighbor called police when he saw the four pit bulls outside Sunday without food or water in temperatures of about 90 degrees. One of the dogs died and the others were in poor shape.

Rob Halpin, a spokesman for the MSPCA, said the organization's law agents will be handling the investigation and will determine if criminal charges against the owner will be filed.

Halpin said pets left inside should have at least a fan on or window open and, like children, should not be left in hot cars.

METRO

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Frenemies get photo revenge

NEW YORK. A quarter of women in a new survey admitted to deliberately posting ugly pictures of their friends to social networking sites. According to the survey by a photo gift website, Mymemory.com, the majority of women posting the photos said they did so after falling out with their friends, while nearly a third said they were taking revenge on people who had done the same to them. Two fifths of women also admitted deliberately posting photographs of their friends without make-up. Even when asked to permanently delete the unflattering picture from Facebook, a fifth of women said they had refused to do so. **METRO**

2.1M still without power in wake of killer storms

NEW YORK. More than 2.1 million people from Illinois to Virginia remained without power yesterday morning after violent storms struck over the weekend, and a heat wave continued to blanket much of the region.

The storms left more than three million homes and businesses without the power needed to run air conditioners during the heat wave, and claimed at least 15 lives, mostly from falling trees and branches across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. **REUTERS**

Ex-astronaut Poindexter dies on Jet Ski

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA. Alan Poindexter, a two-time shuttle astronaut, has died after a Jet Ski accident in Pensacola, Florida, NASA said yesterday.

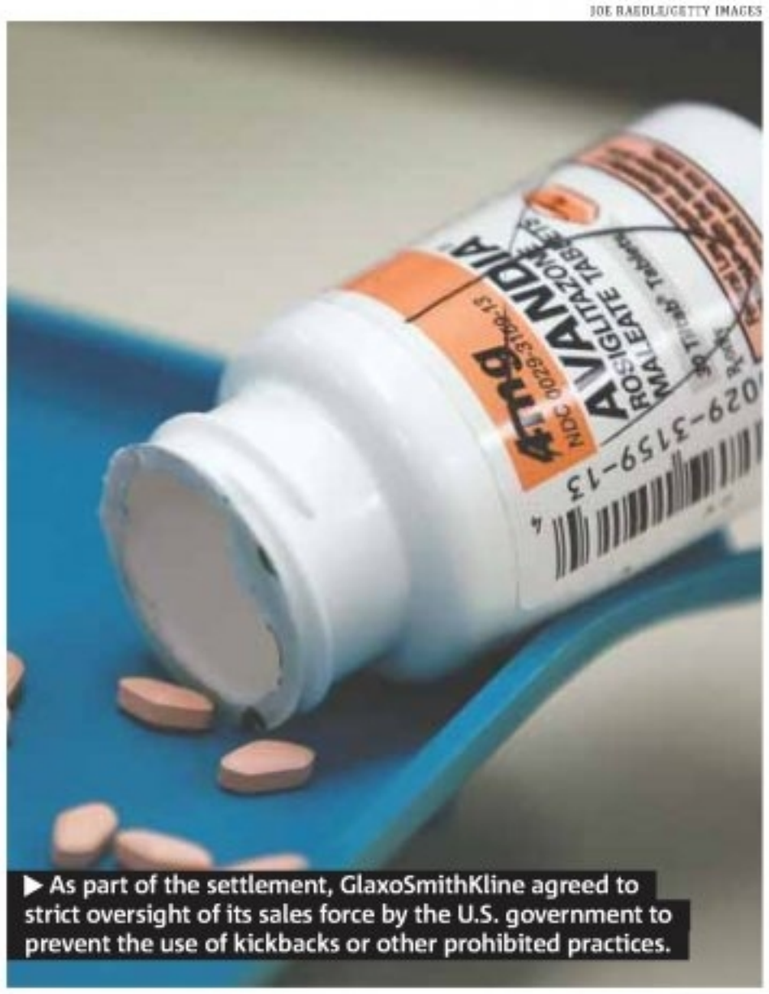
Poindexter, 50, was riding jet skis with his two sons in Little Sabine Bay at Pensacola Beach on Sunday when the accident occurred, officials from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission told the Pensacola News Journal. **REUTERS**

SmithKline settles health care fraud case for $3 billion

The settlement

- **$1 billion** in criminal fines
- **$2 billion** in civil fines
- Part of civil fines address allegations that, from 1994 to 2003, GSK underpaid money owed to Medicaid. The company had an obligation to tell the government its "best prices" but failed to do so.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES



▶ As part of the settlement, GlaxoSmithKline agreed to strict oversight of its sales force by the U.S. government to prevent the use of kickbacks or other prohibited practices.

GlaxoSmithKline Plc has agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor criminal charges and pay $3 billion to settle what government officials said yesterday is the largest case of healthcare fraud in U.S. history.

The agreement, which still needs court approval, would resolve allegations that the British drugmaker broke U.S. laws in the marketing of several pharmaceuticals.

GSK targeted the antidepressant Paxil to patients under age 18 when it was approved for adults only, and it pushed the drug Wellbutrin for uses it was not approved for, including weight loss and treatment of sexual dysfunction, according to an investigation led by the U.S. Justice Department.

"A clear warning to any company that chooses to break the law."

JAMES COLE, THE NO. 2 OFFICIAL AT THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

The company went to extreme lengths to promote the drugs, such as distributing a misleading medical journal article and providing doctors with meals and spa treatments that amounted to illegal kickbacks, prosecutors said.

In a third instance, GSK failed to give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration safety data about its diabetes drug Avandia, in violation of U.S. law, prosecutors said.

The misconduct continued for years beginning in the late 1990s and continued, in the case of Avandia's safety data, through 2007. GSK agreed to plead guilty to three misdemeanor criminal counts, one each related to the three drugs.

The agreement to settle the charges "is unprecedented in both size and scope," said James Cole, the No. 2 official at the U.S. Justice Department. He called the action "historic" and "a clear warning to any company that chooses to break the law." **REUTERS**

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Strongest evidence yet of God particle

Physicists at Fermi National Accelerator Lab said yesterday that they have come tantalizingly close to proving the existence of the elusive subatomic Higgs boson — dubbed the "God particle" because it brings mass and order to the universe.

But the debris from trillions of collisions between beams of protons and anti-protons over 10 years at Fermilab's now-shuttered Tevatron accelerator outside Chicago still fell short of the scientific threshold proving the discovery. The same collision debris hinting at the existence of the Higgs could also come from other subatomic particles.

"This is the best answer that is out there at the moment."
ROB ROSER, FERMILAB PHYSICIST

The power to confer mass seemed to endow the Higgs with the power of creation itself, which helped lead to its nickname "the God particle."

Tomorrow, physicists at CERN, the European particle accelerator near Geneva, are scheduled to announce their own findings in the Higgs hunt. CERN houses the world's most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider.

"The Tevatron data strongly point toward the existence of the Higgs boson, but it will take results from the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider in Europe to establish a firm discovery," said physicist Rob Roser of Fermilab. **REUTERS**

▶ The front gate of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory is pictured on Sept. 22, 2011. Fermi shut down its Tevatron particle accelerator on Sept. 30, 2011.

MIRA OBERMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Buildings sit along the ocean in Miami-Dade County; reports showed that, in the future, this could be one of the most susceptible places when it comes to rising water levels.

Rise in sea level can't be stopped, scientists say

Rising sea levels cannot be stopped over the next several hundred years, even if deep emissions cuts lower global average temperatures — but they can be slowed down, climate scientists said in a study released yesterday.

A lot of climate research claims that rising greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for increasing global average surface temperatures by about 0.17 degrees Celsius a decade from 1980-2010 and for a sea level rise of about 2.3mm a year from 2005-2010 as ice caps and glaciers melt.

Rising sea levels threaten about a tenth of the world's population that lives in low-lying areas and islands which are at risk of flooding, including the Caribbean, Maldives and Asia-Pacific island groups.

Even if global average temperatures fall and surface layer of the sea cools, heat would still be mixed down into the deeper layers of the ocean, causing continued rises in sea levels, the new study said. **REUTERS**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@nickcannon: My wife is like Wonder Woman! Hours ago she was looking gorgeous on stage in LA and now she is back NY before breakfast. #NCREDIBLE

@markhoppus: Paris is a gorgeous city. Every time I'm here I just want to sit at a cafe, smoking coffee and eating cigarettes.

@SarahKSilverman: My niece was born w congenital jazz hands. (Fosse diseases)

@JudahWorldChamp (Judah Friedlander): 72 ounce steaks with mash potatoes and chili is my favorite snack food.

@keshasuxx (Ke$ha): takin photoz fur the covverrr of my rekkkordddd animals... kno wha that meanz?!!! I'm nekked!!!!

Holmes finally freaked out by Scientologists

The average high-profile celebrity divorce provides us with maybe four days of gossip — give or take, depending on if they made us sit through a reality show documenting their fairy-tale wedding.

But this **Katie Holmes** and **Tom Cruise** split is shaping up to be the gift (and/or curse) that keeps on giving (but more likely, taking).

It seems Holmes had more than some vague inkling that Scientology wasn't the church she wanted her daughter, Suri, to grow up in. "Every move she made and everything she did was controlled," a source tells UsMagazine.com. "She felt like she was in 'Rosemary's Baby.' She felt she had to get out to save her daughter."

While we always detected an SOS signal in Holmes' eyes, she decided to file for divorce when Cruise wanted to ship **Suri** off to a Scientology offshoot known as the Sea Organization, sources tell TMZ. Part indoctrination boot camp, part pure Boy Scout kitsch, the Sea Org is effectively the Scientology mothership, an elite military-style sect that requires members to sign one-billion-year contracts and wear Navy-inspired uniforms on campus. (Think Catholic school with more spaceships, less enchanted arks.)

▶ Suri Cruise and Katie Holmes

"Katie and Tom have very different parenting views," another source tells UsMagazine.com. "Katie wants Suri to go to school with other children and have a grounded routine."

This one is really setting the bar high for "irreconcilable differences." What are the rest of us supposed to say when we get bored and see something shiny in the distance?

You can't shake us, Anderson Cooper

Apparently, **Anderson Cooper** wasn't officially out yet.

"The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud," the journalist — with visible abs, we'd like to point out — tells the Daily Beast.

As for the announcement, Cooper felt it was time to go on record. "There continue to be far too many incidences of bullying of young people, as well as discrimination and violence against people of all ages, based on their sexual orientation, and I believe there is value in making clear where I stand," he says.

We commend you, Anderson — but don't think this will stop us from making inappropriate comments about those crystal blue eyes of yours.

2012 BET Awards

▶ This, apparently, is how it's done.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyonce strikes a pose

We're going to let Beyonce have the last word on showing some major leg on stage. The singer accepted the award for Best Female R&B Artist at Sunday night's BET Awards, and, unlike Angelina Jolie, didn't come close to creeping us out.

Talking points

Tell us about it, boys

Matthew McConaughey had some trouble getting used to the costumes required for "Magic Mike." "It's a huge leap of faith to trust a thong," he tells the Hollywood Reporter. "It's your only protection up onstage. When I first tried it on, my body contorted. And I tried to get myself into every position to see what angles I was covering." His costar, **Channing Tatum**, agrees. "Sometimes a thong completely betrays you," adds Tatum. "[But] if everyone is dressed in a thong, pretty much any conversation is going to be funny. It's only weird if you make it weird."

▶ Kunis

Mila Kunis is an online dating pro

Mila Kunis cruises online dating sites, but she's not looking for herself. "I go on and I pick the guys for my friends," the star of "Ted" tells Glamour magazine. "It's online shopping! We all get together with our laptops and have a glass of wine. Then we message the guy. I'm just very honest and blunt." And she rewrites profiles, too: "I'm really good at 'About Me,'" she says. "I feel like I could never write anything about myself, because that's like a therapy session. But about your girlfriends? You just write what you love about your friends. If I didn't do what I do, I would do Internet dating instead of going out to bars. It makes so much more sense."

Happy belated, Lindsay Lohan!

Lindsay Lohan turned 26 yesterday, but she started the party early with a night out at Hollywood club Bootsy Bellows on Sunday. While there were cupcakes and dancing, the actress — who has been on good behavior while filming an **Elizabeth Taylor** biopic — appeared to keep it low-key. "There was a ton of alcohol at Lindsay's table; however, she didn't appear to be drinking," a source tells UsMagazine.com.

A super 'Spider-Man'

The new take on the Spider-Man story is saved from schlock by its charismatic leading couple But it doesn't evade every blockbuster pitfall

"The Amazing Spider-Man"
Director: Marc Webb
Cast: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Rating: PG-13
Grade: B

JAIMIE TRUEBLOOD

▶ These two make a new "Spider-Man" worth watching.

The first thing many of us thought when we heard there was a Spider-Man reboot afoot was, "What? Why?" Well, Marvel actually makes a good case for this new iteration to exist. We have Tobey Maguire replaced by Andrew Garfield and Kirsten Dunst, as Mary Jane Watson, replaced by Emma Stone as Peter Parker's lesser-known girlfriend, Gwen Stacy. Even though we only last saw Spidey five years ago in Sam Raimi's third installment with Maguire and Dunst, Garfield and Stone use their unique charisma to make the story their own. Given that these two have been dating offscreen as well, the chemistry we see between them is powerful.

Considering the director hired to direct this Spidey, Marc Webb, was the man behind the tender indie rom-com, "(500) Days of Summer" it's clear that this isn't going to be a "Transformers" sort of show, where bad CGI has the starring role. Webb's emphasis on relationships makes the whole superhero thing almost tastefully understated. The rest of the cast, too, makes it look effortless, with Rhys Ifans as Dr. Curt Connors and Sally Field and Martin Sheen as Peter Parker's aunt and uncle.

But every comic book movie must have those elements that say "we spent billions on this, so let's make sure everyone on the planet can follow it." There are some major gaps in logic and the occasional bonehead plot point (for example, The Lizard discovering who has been following him by conveniently finding a camera marked "Property of Peter Parker.") There are, also, those bad puns shouted by a masked Spidey as he webtraps a baddie, and silly one-liners uttered while he's swinging from building to building. But it is what it is. Falling within the conventions of the superhero movie, this one demands a certain degree of respect — and we'll give it.

HEIDI PATALANO
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Fourth of July tunes!

Songza the red, white and blue

Songza co-founder Peter Asbill says that the Fourth of July is his favorite holiday.

"Nothing else comes close," he says before reconsidering briefly. "I mean Thanksgiving comes close, I really like that, but just the combination of the summer and barbecue and fireworks, it's perfect for me."

There's one other element that always enters into the equation, and that's music.

For the Fourth, the Songza team has put together three separate playlists for three totally different listening experiences. There's the big bombastic brass of "Stars and Stripes Forever!" which features classic patriotic marches and fanfare; there's "Heartland America," which gives listeners some of their favorite denim-clad rockers like Springsteen, Seger and Mellencamp; and there's "Patriotic Country" which is exactly what it sounds like.

Asbill says that this latter list is already attracting two very different types of listeners.

"You either have to be really into that kind of country music, and there's obviously a lot of people who are, and it's great," he says, "or you have to be really into the irony of being into that kind of country music."

Each playlist is more than three and a half hours long.

PAT HEALY

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company, which calls itself a music concierge service, offers thousands of expertly-curated playlists for free on the web, iPhone and iPad. Each week Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists as you enter into the weekend.

▶ Songza co-founders Peter Asbill, left, and Elias Roman, right, have your holiday playlist set.

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myentertainment

Out of the red

When Sleigh Bells' first single, "Crown on the Ground," made its initial rounds on the Web, listeners thought there was something wrong with their speakers or earbuds, because Derek Miller's guitar was so maxed out. Krauss said their decision not to employ this technique on "Reign of Terror" was a natural one.

"I think 'Reign of Terror' is much more melodic than 'Treats' was, more of a melancholy tone," she says. "At times the music is even more somber, and it just didn't seem appropriate to have songs where everything was pushed completely into the red. There's a lot more dynamic range on the [new] record. A lot of the way 'Treats' was produced was a result of necessity in the sense that a lot of it was recorded using cheaper gear. ... It was much more DIY, and a lot of times we would just turn up."

If you go

Sleigh Bells
Tonight, 8
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$23-$35, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

SLEIGH BELLS' 'REIGN' CONTINUES

For their second album, the Brooklyn band decided to pay 'homage to classic rock' Singer Alexis Krauss on abandoning some of the tricks of 'Treats'

PAUL WARNER/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

Sleigh Bells — from left, Miller, Krauss and touring guitarist Jason Boyer — are out to please a little, squeeze a little, tease a little more.

Sleigh Bells seemed to emerge fully formed, with a brutally unique sound of overblown guitars and vocals that alternated between pop-singer sweetness and cheerleader vengeance. The Brooklyn duo's 2009 debut, "Treats," landed on nearly every single year-end best-of list, including this publication's. For their follow-up, "Reign of Terror," released this spring, guitarist Derek Miller and singer Alexis Krauss decided to do away with some of the tricks of "Treats" in favor of more conventional sounds. But they put these sounds into a context that is anything but conventional.

"In a lot of ways, 'Reign of Terror' is an homage to classic rock and a lot of arena rock songs that are pretty formulaic and pretty universal in terms of structure and what they make you feel," says Krauss. "We were very shameless in referencing bands like Def Leppard or pop acts like Cyndi Lauper or the Go Go's."

Where Krauss was filling in prewritten vocal parts for the debut, the pair collaborated more for "Reign of Terror," and the result is something more melodic. There are even a few ballads on the album. Krauss says she knows that the combination of '80s metal and their own pop and punk instincts have definitely turned off a few listeners. But she has no regrets.

"We always say that we don't really have any guilty pleasures," she says. "If we listen to something and we like it, we're not embarrassed about referencing it. We're both real lovers of pop music, so I think being able to write a really simple but catchy hook is one of the hardest things to do as a songwriter. And we kind of like thinking that way: 'How can we write a song as good as "Pour Some Sugar on Me"?'"

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

TV watch list

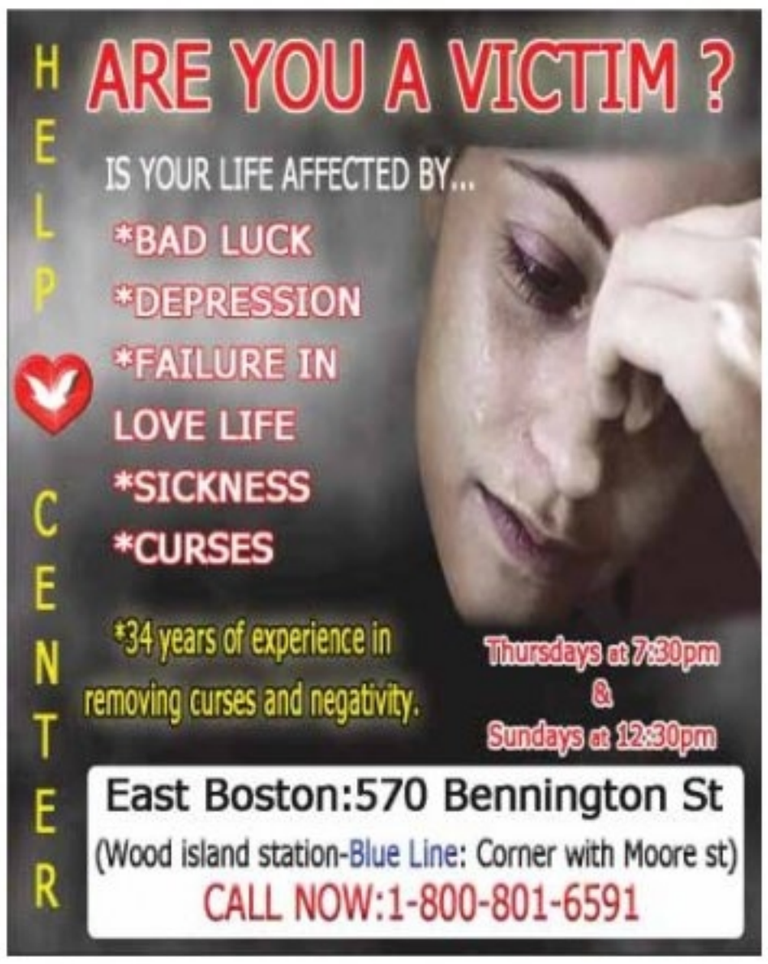
'Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular'
SPECIAL. If fireworks plus Kenny Chesney and Katy Perry aren't your thing ... **Wednesday, 9 p.m., NBC**

'A Capitol Fourth'
SPECIAL. ... try fireworks plus Matthew Broderick, Kool & the Gang, Megan Hilty and Phillip Phillips. Or ... **Wednesday, 8 p.m., PBS**

'Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular'
SPECIAL. ... there's always fireworks plus the Pops, Michael Chiklis and Jennifer Hudson. **Wednesday, 10 p.m., CBS**

'Comedy Central Celebrates America'
MARATHON. The most patriotic episodes of "30 Rock," "Futurama," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "Reno 911!," "South Park" and "Workaholics" — or at least those featuring barbecues and/or a serious amount of fireworks — are shown over a nine-hour marathon. Isn't it great to be an American? **Wednesday, 9 a.m., Comedy Central**

AMBER RAY



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AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Boston Common 19
617-423-5801
At the corner of Tremont & Avery St.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) Tue 1:45, 6:45. Digital Presentation; Wed 11:15-1:45-6:45. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 4:35, 10:25. Real D 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 1:05, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN IMAX 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 1:40, 4:50, 8:15, 11:30. IMAX 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 11:00, 11:30, 12:20, 2:15, 3:00, 3:40, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 8:45, 9:25, 10:10. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) 10:35, 1:00, 3:30, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05. Digital Presentation
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50. RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) Tue 4:20, 8:25, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Wed 2:55-4:20-8:25-11:00. Digital Presentation
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED 3D (PG) 11:05. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 10:50, 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 9:30, 10:35. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 2:50, 8:45. Digital Presentation
MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13) 12:30, 3:15, 5:40, 8:00, 11:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:30. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS (R) 10:40, 5:25, 9:35. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS 3D (R) 1:35, 7:20. RealD 3D
ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) Tue 12:00. Bring Your Baby;Digital Presentation; Wed 11:15. Digital Presentation
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG-13) 11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:40. Digital Presentation
TED (R) 10:30, 11:30, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:05, 4:00, 5:00, 5:50, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:10. Digital Presentation
THAT'S MY BOY (R) 6:00. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 11:20, 2:30, 5:15, 8:20, 11:15. Digital Presentation

REGAL CINEMAS

Fenway 13 & RPX
617-424-6266
201 Brookline Ave.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 12:15, 7:30
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 3:25, 10:35
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Se;RPX; 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 12:20, 12:40, 3:50, 4:10, 7:20, 7:40, 10:50, 11:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
BRAVE (PG) 12:30, 7:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 4:15, 10:15. CC/DVS;RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 11:55, 3:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MAGIC MIKE (R) 12:10, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13) 12:45, 3:55, 6:35, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13) 11:50, 3:20, 6:45, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
PROMETHEUS (R) 6:50, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
TED (R) 12:05, 12:35, 3:35, 4:05, 6:55, 7:25, 9:55, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 12:25, 3:40, 7:05, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Corner Theatre
617-734-2500
290 Harvard St., Brookline
BERNIE (PG-13) Tue 2:40, 7:00, 9:30; Wed 2:40-7:00.
HYSTERIA (R) Tue 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40; Wed 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:15.
JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI (PG) 12:20, 5:00
MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13) Tue 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55; Wed 12:20-2:30-5:00-7:30.
YOUR SISTER'S SISTER (R) Tue 12:00, 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30; Wed 12:00-2:10-4:40-7:00.

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Braintree 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 93 off of Exit 6
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 2:15, 7:45. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 11:30, 5:00, 10:15. Real D 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 10:30, 12:45, 4:15, 7:45, 11:00. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) 1:40, 7:30. Digital Presentation
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 11:00, 4:45, 10:10. RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 10:40, 3:20, 8:25. Digital Presentation
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED 3D (PG) 1:00, 5:50, 10:50. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20. Digital Presentation
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13) 10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05. Digital Presentation
TED (R) 10:45, 12:00, 1:30, 2:40, 4:30, 5:25, 7:15, 8:15, 10:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Burlington Cinema 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Across from Burlington Mall
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 5:50, 10:50. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) Tue 3:00, 8:20. Real D 3D; Wed 9:40-12:20-3:00-8:20. Real D 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 9:30, 12:50, 4:10, 7:50, 11:00. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 10:30, 12:00, 1:40, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:50, 9:30, 10:10. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) Tue 9:50, 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Wed 9:50-12:30-3:10-5:40-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 10:40, 1:30. RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 12:00, 4:50. Digital Presentation
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED 3D (PG) 9:40, 2:20, 7:10. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 10:20, 1:00, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 1:20, 10:25. Digital Presentation
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13) 10:40, 4:40, 7:30. Digital Presentation
ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) Tue 12:00. Bring Your Baby;Digital Presentation
TED (R) 9:30, 12:10, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8:10, 9:40, 10:50. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Lowes Harvard Square 5
888-AMC-4FUN
10 Church St., Cambridge
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 1:00, 5:50, 10:40. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 3:25, 8:15. Real D 3D
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS (R) 2:30, 8:00. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS 3D (R) 5:15, 10:45. RealD 3D
TED (R) 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LANDMARK KENDALL SQUARE CINEMA
617-499-1996
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge
THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG-13) 1:05, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20
A CAT IN PARIS (UNE VIE DE CHAT) (PG) Tue 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:25; Wed 11:30-1:50-4:20-7:05-9:25.
HYSTERIA (R) 1:35, 4:05
THE INTOUCHABLES (R) Tue 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30; Wed 11:05-1:35-4:10-6:50-9:30.
MOONRISE KINGDOM (PG-13) Tue 1:15, 2:00, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 9:00, 9:35; Wed 11:00-11:45-1:15-2:00-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:00-9:00-9:35.
PEOPLE LIKE US (PG-13) Tue 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30; Wed 11:00-1:35-4:15-6:55-9:30.
SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED (R) Tue 1:25, 4:00, 7:05, 9:15; Wed 11:20-1:25-4:00-7:05-9:15.
SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (R) Tue 6:45, 9:20; Wed 11:10-6:45-9:20.
YOUR SISTER'S SISTER (R) Tue 1:45, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40; Wed 11:25-1:45-4:10-7:10-9:40.

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Chestnut Hill 5
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 9 Newton
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 9:30, 1:00, 4:30, 8:00. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) Tue 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00; Wed 11:30-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN IMAX 3D (PG-13) 9:45, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. IMAX 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 10:15, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20. RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 9:45, 2:35, 7:25. Digital Presentation
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED 3D (PG) 12:10, 5:00, 9:50. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 12:20, 3:10, 5:50, 8:35, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 10:40-1:20-4:50-7:35-10:15. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 1:15, 7:15. Digital Presentation
MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 10:35, 4:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS (R) 1:50, 7:50. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS 3D (R) 10:50, 4:55, 10:55. RealD 3D
SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (R) 11:20, 5:20, 10:50. Digital Presentation
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG-13) 2:15, 7:55. Digital Presentation
TED (R) 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:10, 10:10, 11:10. Digital Presentation
THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15, 2:05, 5:05, 8:15, 11:05. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55. Digital Presentation

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Patriot Place
800-315-4000
24 Patroit Place, Foxboro
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 10:00, 12:20, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 6:40, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15. REAL D 3D; Wed 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:45. Lux Level;REAL D 3D
KATY PERRY: PART OF ME 3D (PG) Wed 12:01. REAL D 3D

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Methuen 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Rte. 213 between I-93 & I-495
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 11:00, 4:15, 10:00. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 1:35, 7:15. Real D 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN IMAX 3D (PG-13) 10:15, 1:30, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15. IMAX 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 11:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:45, 10:15, 10:45. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Liberty Tree Mall 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Exit 24 (Endicott St.) off Rt. 128
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 2:50, 8:10. Digital Presentation
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D (R) 12:05, 5:30, 10:45. Real D 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 3:15, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 9:45. RealD 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN IMAX 3D (PG-13) 9:45, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. IMAX 3D
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) 10:15, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15. Digital Presentation
BRAVE (PG) 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20. RealD 3D
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) 9:45, 2:35, 7:25. Digital Presentation
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED 3D (PG) 12:10, 5:00, 9:50. RealD 3D
MAGIC MIKE (R) 12:20, 3:10, 5:50, 8:35, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 10:40-1:20-4:50-7:35-10:15. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 1:15, 7:15. Digital Presentation
MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 10:35, 4:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS (R) 1:50, 7:50. Digital Presentation
PROMETHEUS 3D (R) 10:50, 4:55, 10:55. RealD 3D
SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (R) 11:20, 5:20, 10:50. Digital Presentation
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG-13) 2:15, 7:55. Digital Presentation
TED (R) 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:10, 10:10, 11:10. Digital Presentation
THAT'S MY BOY (R) 11:15, 2:05, 5:05, 8:15, 11:05. Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION (PG-13) 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55. Digital Presentation

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
55 Davis Square
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) Tue 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55; Wed 2:10-4:40-7:30-9:55.
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 9:20
MAGIC MIKE (R) Tue 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45; Wed 2:15-4:45-7:20-9:45.
ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) Tue 1:40, 4:10, 6:45; Wed 1:40-4:10-6:45.
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG-13) Tue 1:40, 4:20, 7:00; Wed 1:40-4:20-7:00.
TED (R) Tue 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00; Wed 2:30-5:00-7:40-10:00.
THAT'S MY BOY (R) 9:50

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 3D (PG-13) Tue 2:00, 5:00, 8:00; Wed 2:00-5:00-8:00.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) Tue 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Wed 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50.
BRAVE (PG) 2:15, 9:20
BRAVE IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 4:45, 7:00
MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (PG) Tue 1:30, 3:30, 5:30; Wed 1:30-3:30-5:30.
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 7:45
MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13) 7:20, 9:50
PROMETHEUS (R) Tue 4:30, 10:00; Wed 4:30-10:00.
PROMETHEUS 3D (R) Tue 1:45, 7:20; Wed 1:45-7:20.

"IT'S THE BEST SPIDER-MAN YET.
A BRILLIANT REIMAGINING
OF AN EPIC FRANCHISE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT AGAIN."
MARLOW STERN
Newsweek
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IN THEATERS IN IMAX 3D, reald 3D, 3D AND 2D
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Advice

Keep kids safe from Fourth of July fireworks

- Never let children play with fireworks of any type.
- View fireworks from at least 500 feet away.
- Respect safety barriers set up to allow pyrotechnicians to do their jobs safely.
- If you find unexploded fireworks, don't touch them. Immediately contact your local fire or police departments.
- If you experience an eye injury during a fireworks accident, seek immediate help from an ophthalmologist.

Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology

Adults need to be safe, too

- Never buy or use illegal fireworks. Their quality cannot be assured.
- Never hold lighted fireworks with your hand or place them near the body.
- Wear safety eyewear, and always have water nearby.
- Soak used fireworks in water before discarding.
- Never relight a firework.
- If you are injured using fireworks, get help immediately.
- Never allow young children to play with or go near sparklers. They can reach temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees.
- Never handle fireworks if you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Source: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Jennifer Hudson's new 'Lullaby'

The songstress puts her voice to good use when it's bedtime for her son How she keeps him grounded

GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Hudson hung out with some little ones during the "Pampers Lullabies" listening party in New York on Wednesday. You can download her take on "Lullaby and Goodnight" for free at www.facebook.com/pampers.

When many people think of Jennifer Hudson's singing style, they think of a thunderous, room-shaking tone. But now, with her new Pampers-inspired adaptation of the classic "Lullaby and Goodnight," the multi-talented performer shows a gentler, sweeter side. We caught up with Hudson last week to discuss her new lullaby recording and how she balances being a mom and a superstar.

How did you incorporate your experiences as a mom into this lullaby?

[By] imagining putting my baby to sleep: What do you want to say to your child? What do you want them to hear before they fall asleep to soothe them, to calm them down? That's why I did it. Anytime he calls me, I say, "That's my baby." I always tell him, "I love your hugs," "I love your kisses." So, I really took it from being a mom, and the real experience of that.

Is it difficult balancing motherhood with your work life?

It can be. That's why I love being from Chicago and living in Chicago. After we had our son, we decided we wanted to go back home, because to me that's what keeps you grounded. That's what keeps the foundation. And then you have family there, which is what keeps something normal, at least for him. I wanted him to have as much of a normal childhood as possible, and I felt like that was the best way to do that — by going back home. And although he is always in my world and watching mommy work, and seeing daddy wrestling — that's different, that will always make him grow up different — if he still has that base, that foundation that we had growing up, then that, to us, is what's important.

What advice do you have for new parents?

I remember when I first had my baby, I wanted all the guests to go home, but I was so terrified of being home alone with him. It's natural to be terrified, but it falls into place. You just fall into it.

RAISHAD HARDNETT
letters@metro.us

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTIONS
EXOTIC DANCERS
FORMERLY OR CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AT ADULT ENTERTAINMENT CLUBS IN MASSACHUSETTS & MAINE
This office has investigated and filed class action lawsuits against various adult entertainment clubs on behalf of current and former exotic dancers employed at these clubs. Our lawsuits claim that various adult entertainment clubs require exotic dancers to pay a 'House Fee" to work and share their tips and earnings with others in violation of law. Our lawsuits also claim that various clubs have misclassified their dancers as "independent contractors", failed to pay minimum wage and provide other benefits required by law. Current and former dancers who have worked at adult entertainment clubs within the last 3 years may be eligible to participate in these class action lawsuits and may be entitled to substantial compensation.
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Letters

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Whose job is it anyway?

RE: "SOUNDING OFF ON HEALTH CARE": Mr. St. George, I frequently read your comments in Metro. While you do make some good points, the note you wrote appearing on July 2 is quite inaccurate.

I agree with your first point (it is not the president's job to create laws, that is the task of Congress); however, the rest of your prose is a typical anti-federal government rant based on how you personally believe our government is supposed to govern.

ACA is not unconstitutional. The Supreme Court ruled it did not violate the Constitution, hence the law is constitutional. The U.S. Federal Government has been involved in health care for nearly a century. You seem to be perpetuating a state's rights argument that was settled when we abandoned the Articles of Confederation, and then settled again during the Civil War. I have a history degree, and have worked in the health care industry for much of my life. Most of your arguments are based on conjecture, rather than substance. Also: Romney stated he would "repeal Obamacare on day one," which, as president, he would not have the power to do (again, a congressional task).

DOUG PORRELL, VIA E-MAIL

Pack your bags, we need coverage

Romney's potential choice for V.P. Marco Rubio said that there was a big difference between Romney's health care plan and Obama's. Romney's was on a state level; if you didn't like it you could move to a different state. Really? Sell the house, quit your job, pack up the kids and move to where they DON'T have health insurance? What a plan. Right now, more than 60 percent of bankruptcies in our country are due to runaway medical bills! "Obamacare" puts an end to that! Republicans think affordable, quality health care is a privilege. Wrong, it's a fundamental human right!

ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Unlocking the issue of 'job lock'

The Affordable Care Act frees an employee from "job lock," the reluctance to voluntarily terminate employment for fear of losing health care benefits, particularly if one has a preexisting condition. Now, it will take more than company health insurance to hold a valuable, experienced employee who should be better paid or better treated.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

The right to bear flags, wherever

RE: "FLAGS ARE FOR FLYING, NOT WEARING": On the contrary, wearing printed images of the U.S. flag on clothing simply reflects the spirit of Independence Day. There is nothing unpatriotic or disrespectful about showing your pride in being American; wear what you feel, you have the freedom of choice and no one has the authority to dictate what not to wear. Go ahead, proudly wear your patriotic prints or red white and blue colors. Celebrate your freedom, and show your love for the USA. **M. KOZYRA, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you are overly insistent about having your way, it will arouse similar instincts in those with whom you have one-on-one dealings. A deadlock could become inevitable.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You're a considerate individual who is always happy to be helpful when you can. However, this noble characteristic is likely to be absent at present unless there is something in it for you.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** It's best to abide by the will of the majority, even when you are inclined to do otherwise. Don't be the only person in the group who is out of step.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Beware of a tendency to make your desired objectives far more difficult than they actually are. It's smart to always seek out the line of least resistance.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If you're not careful, discussions on politics or principles could quickly become volatile. Be extremely mindful of this if you encounter someone who holds opposing views.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Before assuming any new indebtedness at this point in time, it is much wiser to take care of your old obligations first. Don't let yourself get boxed in by old bills.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Persons who are in accord with your way of doing things will find you to be a very pleasant individual to be around. Those who do things differently aren't likely to agree.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Arrange your schedule to be able to do everything in the easiest way possible, because you aren't likely to work too well under pressure. Being methodical in your actions would be a great first step.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be your own person, especially if you find yourself involved with certain individuals whose standards don't measure up to yours.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** An old, unresolved problem that always causes turmoil within the household might rear its ugly head again. If it does manifest, don't contribute to the hostilities.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You won't be in the mood for having others tell you what to do. To help prevent such a thing, refrain from foisting your opinions on others.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** A powerful desire for self-gratification could be far more prevalent in you than usual, so you might have to be careful to avoid greediness when it comes to what you want.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Parroted
5 Maple-tree product
8 Night crawler
12 Award for valor
14 Angel headgear?
15 Dog in "Beetle Bailey"
16 City in Idaho
17 Big galoots
18 "Family Ties" son
19 Kind of training (3 wds.)
21 Thick straw mat
23 Dull routine
24 Med. staffer
25 9-digit no.
26 Hollow rocks
30 Calf-catching rope
32 Got someone's goat
33 Small-scale
37 Graceful steed
38 Facilitated
39 Outback mineral
40 Confused
42 River of India
43 Pele's specialty
44 Spicy cuisine
45 __ Tome
48 2001, to Livy
49 Court
50 Gauzy trap
52 Preserving a baby shoe, e.g.
57 Opera tune
58 To be, to Balzac
60 Weird
61 66 and I-80
62 University official
63 Eddy or Allman
64 Cummerbund
65 Don the feedbag
66 Go in search of

Down
1 Pulpit
2 Menial worker
3 Check manuscripts
4 Zip
5 Volvo rival
6 Politico __ Landon
7 Not C.O.D.
8 Icebreaker
9 NASA rocket
10 Gossip tidbits
11 Venom
13 Ogled
14 Catcall
20 Roast beef au __
22 Square column
24 Like notebook paper
26 Snatch
27 Emerald Isle
28 Norse king
29 Fix, as software
30 Hops a train
31 Set right
33 __ Vanilli (rock group)
34 Elegant coiffure
35 Fidel's brother
36 Failing that
38 George Eliot novel (2 wds.)
41 Igloo shape
42 Wrinkle-free
44 Sweet murmur
45 Lasting aftereffects
46 Main artery
47 Stage awards
49 Nest builder
51 Do the laundry
52 Sitter's bane
53 Hera's hubby
54 Latin hymn word
55 Three squared
56 Nerd
59 Japanese __ ceremony

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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6		2		9			5	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Monday's crossword

B	A	D	G	E	■	S	W	I	G	■	C	L	A	P
A	L	I	E	N	■	A	H	S	O	■	H	E	R	O
B	A	S	T	E	■	M	I	S	O	■	I	V	E	S
E	S	C	A	R	G	O	T	■	S	E	L	E	N	E
■	■	■	■	G	R	A	M	■	E	N	D	E	A	R
T	I	E	D	Y	E	■	A	S	S	T	■	■	■	■
I	S	L	E	■	E	T	N	A	■	E	L	T	O	N
P	A	L	E	T	T	E	■	S	T	R	E	A	K	Y
S	W	A	T	H	■	S	H	E	A	■	A	X	L	E
■	■	■	■	U	N	T	O	■	L	A	R	I	A	T
B	L	O	N	D	E	■	T	R	O	D	■	■	■	■
E	L	P	A	S	O	■	W	I	N	D	B	A	G	S
V	A	T	S	■	C	L	I	P	■	E	R	N	I	E
E	M	I	T	■	O	G	R	E	■	R	A	N	G	E
L	A	C	Y	■	N	E	E	R	■	S	N	E	A	D

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Denmark's the spot

You may be tempted to compare Copenhagen to Amsterdam, with its relaxed, bohemian attitude and artistic vibe Or to Paris, with its leisurely outdoor cafes and meandering side streets Or even to Venice with its scenic canals and waterfront focus But this welcoming Nordic city has a personality all its own Ride a bike through the city to check out these spots

ALL PHOTOS BY CONNIE MARIA WESTERGAARD

▶ Dating back to the late 1600s, Nyhavn is still a bustling waterfront area of Copenhagen.

To do:

An absolute must when visiting Denmark is to rent bikes and see the city the way most Danes do: on two wheels. People ride bikes in Copenhagen the way they do cars or the subway elsewhere: to get to work in the morning, to pick up the kids from day care in the afternoon and to dinner parties at night. Bike rental shops abound — but take advantage of the city's long-time bike share. It's completely free!

Ride your bikes to see the obligatory Danish tourist attraction — The Little Mermaid statue, with the harbor waters lapping at her unassuming perch. The creation by sculptor Edvard Eriksen is indeed very cute, and a testament to the country's revered writer Hans Christian Anderson; he wrote the beloved fairy tale that most Americans know from the Disney movie. But do check out the uglier — and we think cooler — version. A deconstructed interpretation of The Little Mermaid — Danes call her "the genetically modified mermaid" — has been created by Bjorn Norgaard and is a short bike ride away in the Osterbro neighborhood.

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To see:

You can't visit Copenhagen without a trip to Tivoli Gardens. It might be tempting to dismiss it as a mere amusement park, but the Danes hold it near to their hearts. The Gardens became a point of national pride after the Germans bombed it in World War II. Even today, or so the legend goes, many of the light fixtures here face down, so anyone flying above cannot see the park is operating.

The Gardens are a quirky, eclectic mix. There's a concert stage and a grassy meadow, roller coasters and rides. There are also plenty of quiet, serene flowery spots to sit and relax. Eating options range from the quick — popcorn and hot dogs (the Danes are mad about hot dogs!) — to the very formal.

▶ BioMio is popular in Copenhagen's meatpacking district.

To eat:

There has been a food revolution in Denmark, where the emphasis is placed on cooking with fresh, local ingredients.

Those who follow food and dining trends have likely heard of Rene Redzipi, the head chef at Noma who led the way in locavore dining. But if you can't get a table at Noma (the wait list can be two months) don't despair, there are other options.

Try Manfreds & Vin in Jaegersborggade. This is a hip but relaxed restaurant in what is like the Brooklyn of Copenhangen. The salad is topped with a few slivers of pickled onion and dressing and the taste is spicy, tangy, sweet and bitter depending on which green you bite.

BioMio in the meatpacking district is another tasty vegetable-heavy restaurant.

Even though veggies are highlighted in many of the dishes anywhere in Denmark, vegetarians should be warned: Expect lots of fish, sausage and cured meats. (Our mouth is still watering from a dish at a restaurant called Nose2Tail: Little pink caviar called lumpfish roe, creme fraiche and lots of fresh dill.)

Try smorebrod while there; it's Danish brown bread smeared with butter and then topped with meats or fish.

CARLY BALDWIN
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Keys to the turnaround

Will Sox be able to sustain hot play of last month? Taking two of three from Oakland important heading into Yankees series Pitching, Ortiz and Ross have been bright spots

Three months into the season, it seems very little has gone right for the Red Sox. There have been injuries to key players, the lame-duck departure of a beloved veteran and the continuing tension and drama in a clubhouse never fully healed from last September. And yet, after a rough 10 games to begin the month of June — and despite a pair of walk-off heartbreakers to end it — the Red Sox have positioned themselves right in the thick of the postseason chase and are playing some of their best baseball of the season. How have they managed to turn things around, going 12-5 to end the month of June?

1 RENAISSANCE OF ORTIZ
In May, Ortiz emerged as the leader of the team off the field, calling the closed-door meeting in response to L'Affair Beckett and preventing the 12-19 Red Sox from spiraling even further into the abyss. In June, Ortiz has carried that leadership to the plate, putting together a monster month, with nine homers, 18 RBIs and 22 runs scored. His OPS of 1.039 ranked fourth in the American League among hitters with at least 60 at-bats and was more than good enough to make him the lone All-Star selection on the team.

39 Number of RBIs Red Sox outfielder Cody Ross has in the 2012 season in just 50 games played and 181 at-bats.

2 RETURN OF CODY ROSS
Ortiz notwithstanding, you want an MVP for June? You might want to consider the impact Cody Ross has had since his return from the disabled list. First, look at his numbers since his return on June 19: 12 games, four homers, 11 RBI, 10 runs and a team-leading OPS of 1.066.

Now consider the Ross Ripple Effect: Not only did his return bring some stability to an injury-ravaged outfield, it also hastened the end of the Adrian Gonzalez Project in right field, which further accelerated the Kevin Youkilis trade talks, which increased the playing time of Will Middlebrooks at third base. All three of those moves led to increased production at the corner infield positions at month's end, as the Red Sox ended June fourth in runs scored in the AL and went 8-4 in Ross' 12 games.

3 STABILIZATION OF THE PITCHING STAFF
The Red Sox ERA in April: 5.54. The ERA in May: 3.39.

Now, let's try June: 3.31. Second-best in the AL.

It's not rocket science, folks. It's always about the pitching. And maybe it's time to start reconsidering the value of the Big Three in the rotation. With Josh Beckett and Clay Buchholz sidelined and Jon Lester unable to get out of his own way, it has been the likes of Franklin Morales (3 starts, 2.00 ERA, 24 Ks) and Aaron Cook (2 starts, 1.29 ERA) who have led the charge in the late-month resurgence.

Hopefully Beckett's bounce-back in Saturday's month-ending performance in Seattle points him back in the right direction, with his beer-and-chicken buddies Lester and Buchholz soon following suit.

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES

David Ortiz is the Red Sox's lone All-Star.

In the news

Brow beaten
The No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft, Anthony Davis, suffered a sprained ankle in a Hornets workout Sunday and will likely be unable to participate for Team USA in the Olympics.

News in brief

Green expected to be back with Celts

Danny Ainge addressed the Celtics ability to re-sign free agent forward Jeff Green yesterday.

"Nothing is done, but we intend to have Jeff back," Ainge said at an introductory press conference for draft picks Jared Sullinger, Fab Melo and Kris Joseph.

Green's scoring presence was missed by the Celtics last season as the forward has averaged 13.9 points per game in his NBA career thus far. Green has resumed playing five-on-five basketball after being diagnosed with a heart condition just prior to the start of the 2011-12 season.

LaRussa still not making any friends

Tony LaRussa will become just the second retired manager to call the shots in the MLB All-Star Game next week. But there will be no cause for celebration, considering that several teams are irked by his choices on who should play for the National League. Three Cincinnati Reds were selected Sunday, but Johnny Cueto and Brandon Phillips were not among them. Reds manager Dusty Baker was vocal about his displeasure.

Yesterday the Brewers also called out LaRussa for not calling on starting pitcher Zack Greinke, reportedly because of his "pitching schedule."

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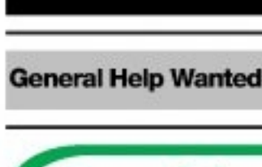
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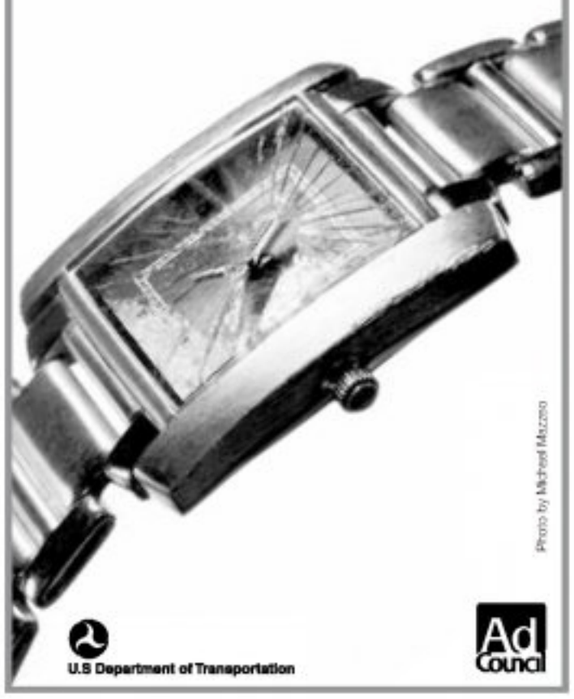
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at home with metro

LIVING LARGE

It appears that McMansions are back, and they are moving fast
Could this be a sign that the recession is ending?

So much for small-footprint living. The recession's minimal home trend was a brief respite from excess, it seems. Homeowners and homebuyers are upsizing: Living large is back (again).

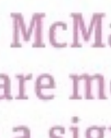
"Nobody was buying them, these big homes were languishing," says John Popp of RE/MAX Best Choice in Framingham. "I couldn't give them away. But even the McMansions have been selling quickly for the past few months. One factor is that prices are good. The McMansion that was priced at $1.5 million five years ago is now $1.1 million. That makes a difference."

Popp says developers are building new large homes, too. With a time investment of up to two years, that means builders are confident the trend will continue.

"But it's not just McMansions," adds Popp. "The interest rates are so low that first-time buyers aren't going for a condo, they're going for the Cape, and that has a ripple effect. The second-tier buyers are going for a much bigger home."

Upsizing isn't just a suburban trend either. There's a sharp increase of Boston developers, notably in the South End, returning multifamily brownstones to magnificent single-family homes.

"There is a change from the past few years, when developers and builders were downsizing houses to accommodate the downturn with our economy," says William Raye of Engel & Volkers Boston. "According to data from the Census Bureau, the average size of a newly built home is up 3.7 percent from 2010 and represented the first annual increase since 2007."



LINDA LABAN
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▶ Lavish dining rooms like this are not uncommon lately.

Size matters?

Another sign that homes are getting larger is increased sales of big furniture. "We are seeing an increase in large furniture and accessory purchases compared to last year," says David Ladetto of Boston-based online home wares store, Wayfair.com. Ladetto says that whatever the size, across the board people are expanding their living space. "The big homes trend doesn't indicate a sudden shift from minirooms to McMansions. It's also about getting a little more space — adding that extra bedroom, second bathroom or even a patio."

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